

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W

-----016896 041001Z /21

R 031630Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1292

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AEBASSY LONDON 500

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USUN NEW YORK 633

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEBR, RH, GB

SUBJECT : MEETING WITH ZANU DELEGATES

REF: LIBREVILLE 1794

1. TWO OF ZANU LEADER REVEREND SITHOLE'S LIEUTENANTS, WHO ARE ON WEST AFRICAN SWING PRIOR KHARTOUM SUMMIT, WERE RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR JULY 3 AT THEIR REQUEST. THEY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS OLIVER SAWUNYAMA, FORMER ZANU REPRESENTATIVE RESIDENT GABERON, AND BAZISONDA SAMBO, ZANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THEY DESCRIBED THEIR MISSION AS EXPLAINING TO WEST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS SITHOL'S VERSION OF RHODESIAN EVENTS SINCE THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND AS ATTEMPTING TO BUILD UP SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE UNDER BLACK MAJORITY GOVERNMENT AFTER DECEMBER 31. IN GABON ZANU REPS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER MEBIAME AND FOREIGN MINISTER MARTIN BONGO.THEY CLEARLY APPRECIATE PRESIDENT BONGO'S POSITION THAT ALTHOUGH LIBREVILLE SUMMIT DESIGNATED PATRIOT FRONT AS SOLE RECOGNIZED ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT, IT DID NOT AUTOMATICALLY CONFER POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON PATRIOTIC FRONT TO EXCLUSION OF OTHER PARTIES. IN REPLY TO QUERY, SAWUNYAMA AND SAMBA STATED THEIR MISSION WAS NOT SO MUCH TO REINFORCE

THAT OF LAST WEEK BY BISHOP MUZOREWA'S EMISSARIES (REFTEL)
AS TO GIVE PARALLEL ZANU INTERPRETATION. THEIR NEXT STOP AFTER
GABON IS CAMEROON.

2. ASKED WHAT THEY HOPED ACCOMPLISH AT KHARTOUM, THEY REPLIED
THAT THEY WOULD SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF THEIR POSITION AND WERE
CONFIDENT THEY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. RECENT OAU MEETING AR
TRIPOLI HAD ADOPTED ZIMBABWE ITEM WHICH THEY WERE SURE WOULD
BE DISCUSSED. WHEN IT WAS, THEY HOPED BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK.
IF THEY WERE NOT GIVEN PERMISSION, THEY, PLUS SITHOLE HIMSELF
WHO WOULD BE THEREN WOULD LOBBY STRONGLY,
AND FOR THIS PURPOSE, THEY WERE CARRYING WITH THEM BROCHURE
ENTITLED "IN DEFENCE OF THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT,
A POWER PROMISE" BY SITHOLE, COPIES OF WHICH THEY LEFT WITH US
AND WHICH WE SHALL POUCH TO DEPARTMENT.

3. WHILE THEY INDICATED FULL AWARENESS OF USG POSITION IN
FAVOR OF SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ALL ZIMBABWEANS ON BASIS OF
MAJORITY RULE, THEY ALLEGED THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY USG DID
NOT TAKE STRONGER STAND AGAINST CUBAN THREAT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
USG SHOULD MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE CUBAN/
SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND BE PREPARED TOGETHER WITH
BRITISH TO BACK UP OUR POSITION WITH FORCE IF NECESSARY.
AT PRESENT, TALKING ABOUT THREAT OF COBANS, WITHOUT SAYING
WHAT WE WOULD DO ABOUT THEM, WE WERE SIMPLY STRENGTHENING CUBANS.
TO AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT HE THOUGHT ANY DEVELOPMENT
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INVOLVING FORCE WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, SAWUNYAMA NONETHELESS SAID
THAT WAS MESSAGE HE WANTED TO GET ACROSS TO USG. ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS LINKING PATROTIC FRONT WITH LEANINGS TOWARD CUBAN/
SOVIETS, CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT WE SHOULD BE
SUPPORTING INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH, WHATEVER HAPPENED,
WOULD LEAD TO INDEPENDENCE ON DECEMBER 31.TIENKEN

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Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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